



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

2 PREDATORS NABBED BY ICE IN SULLIVAN COUNTY

-ICE has arrested more than 6,500 predators nationwide and 412 in the New York metropolitan area under Operation Predator-

MONTICELLO, NY – Martin D. Ficke, Special Agent-in-Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New York today announced the arrests of two predators illegally present in the United States.

The arrests were made by ICE special agents and officers from the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office and Sullivan County Probation. Both of the men arrested have prior convictions in Sullivan County for sex offenses. One alien, a citizen of Guatemala, had a prior conviction for rape in the third degree and endangering the welfare of a child. The victim in the case was 14-years old. The second alien, a citizen of Mexico, was previously convicted of sexual abuse in the second degree against his own 12-year-old daughter.

"We are determined to make our communities safer for everyone," said Ficke. "Child predators and sex offenders are the scourge of our society. ICE is committed to restoring integrity to our nation's immigration system by identifying, arresting and deporting criminal aliens who terrorize our community and who have no legal right to remain in the country. We will continue to work closely with local and state law enforcement agencies on joint investigations of criminal aliens to take these criminals off our streets."

Both criminal aliens have been transported to an ICE detention facility in Pike County, Pennsylvania where they will be scheduled for removal hearings before an immigration judge.

ICE agents also lodged an ICE arrest warrant against a third criminal alien sex offender illegally present in the country who is currently incarcerated in the Sullivan County Jail in Monticello. The alien is facing prosecution by the District Attorney's Office for driving while intoxicated. This alien, a citizen of Honduras, has a prior conviction for sexual abuse in the second degree against an adult victim. He was previously deported back to Honduras in 1988 and illegally reentered the United States a year later. This alien will also face removal from the country upon the resolution of his criminal case.

These actions are the latest under the Department of Homeland Security's "Operation Predator." Operation Predator protects children by investigating and presenting for prosecution pedophiles,

Internet predators, human traffickers, international sex tourists and other predatory criminals. Since Operation Predator was launched on July 9, 2003, ICE agents have arrested over 6,500 child predators and sex offenders nationwide and removed more than 3,100 criminal alien predators. The New York ICE Office has arrested 412 predators.

ICE has a toll-free number for the public to provide leads to its enforcement team on any violations, including tips about child pornography, child sex offenders and others preying on children. The toll-free number (1-866-DHS-2ICE) is monitored 24 hours a day by officers at the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center. For more information on Operation Predator, please visit the ICE website at www.ice.gov.

Ficke expressed his appreciation to Sullivan County Sheriff Daniel Hogue; Deputy Sheriff Patricia Sherwood; Sullivan County Probation Director Genevieve Dainack; Supervisory Probation Officer Tom Fogerty, and Probation Officer Linda Lukoff for their assistance in this enforcement action.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.